

REMARKS

In the Decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, the Board upholds the rejection of claims 1-6 and 9-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs, and reverses the rejections of claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-33, and 35-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and claims 2, 8, 13, 34, and 46-61 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Board further enters new grounds of rejection of claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs.

By way of the present amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-24 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 42-44, 56-58, and 60 to improve form. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Claims 25-61 are pending and are in condition for immediate allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

PATENT
U.S. Application No. 09/734,886
Attorney's Docket No. 0026-0005

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY SNYDER, L.L.P.

By: /John E. Harrity, Reg. No. 43367/
John E. Harrity
Reg. No. 43,367

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11350 Random Hills Road
Suite 600
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Telephone: (571) 432-0800
Facsimile: (571) 432-0808

Customer No. 44989